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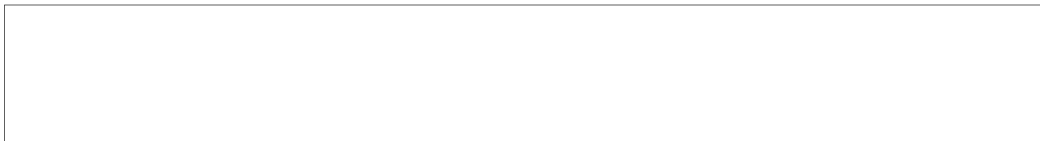
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SNAR, PGOV, MX
SUBJECT: SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
- CHAIRMAN'S VIEW ON DEA PRESENCE
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1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
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2. DURING LUNCH WITH SENATOR HUMBERTO HERNANDEZ HADDAD, THE PRI SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, POLOFFS RAISED SUBJECT OF DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ASKED HIM HIS OPINION ABOUT RECENT STATEMENTS MADE BY MEXICAN POLITICIANS CRITICIZING THE DEA ROLE HERE.
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3. HERNANDEZ SAID HE THOUGHT THE CONTROVERSY HAD DIED DOWN. DEPUTIES, HE SAID, ARE PRONE TO MAKE ALL SORTS OF UNINFORMED STATEMENTS (IMPLYING THAT SENATORS WERE BETTER INFORMED THAN THEIR COLLEAGUES IN THE CHAMBER).
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4. TURNING TO THE DEA ITSELF, HE THOUGHT IT WAS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS A GOOD THING THAT BOTH THE DEA AND THE GOM WERE "MONITORING" EACH OTHER. ASKED IF HE HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT DEA ACTIVITIES AND PROCEDURES IN MEXICO, HE ANSWERED THAT HE DID NOT.
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5. COMMENT: HERNANDEZ'S GENERALLY FAVORABLE COMMENTS CONCERNING DEA ACTIVITIES HERE ARE WELCOME. HE FELT THE TRAFFICKING SITUATION WAS A SERIOUS ONE THAT HAD TO BE FOUGHT BY BOTH SIDES. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE OUT OF CHARACTER IF HE WERE TO SAY THE SAME THING PUBLICLY. END COMMENT. (DRAFTED:POL:RMARCUS) BUSBY
END OF MESSAGE
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